



# “Gathering of the Green”

A special conference for John Deere collectors, restorers & enthusiasts

**March 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2018**

**RiverCenter, Davenport, Iowa**

## **PLEASE JOIN US AT THE 10TH “GATHERING OF THE GREEN” CONFERENCE**

Your central, northern Illinois, and eastern Iowa John Deere antique tractor clubs...Deer Valley, Illinois Valley, North Eastern Illinois, and Northwest Illinois, enthusiastically encourage you to join us in the heartland of America for this outstanding conference.

The “Gathering” has become the foremost convention-style conference dedicated to John Deere antique tractor and implement buffs who admire everything green and yellow. People come from all corners of the USA, Canada and abroad to learn about restoration, enjoy evening speakers, shop the many vendors, and participate in numerous tours and trips. But perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of the “Gathering” is visiting with old friends, making new ones, sharing and learning more about your John Deere passion, and talking tractors 'round the clock.

The 2018 “Gathering” will again be held in the spacious and beautiful RiverCenter in Davenport, Iowa. Plan to join us, you won't be disappointed!

February 15, 2018 is the registration deadline. We anticipate considerable interest in the 2018 “Gathering,” so your timely registration is important. Following is detailed information and a description of what you can expect, along with a separate registration form which you should complete and **return as soon as possible**.

### **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ.**

This REGISTRATION material is being sent to you at your request in lieu of online registration. This material is abbreviated in detail and you are encouraged to check the “Gathering” website for complete information about the conference.

[www.gatheringofthegreen.com](http://www.gatheringofthegreen.com)

**IMPORTANT OPTION:** *You can register online at [www.gatheringofthegreen.com](http://www.gatheringofthegreen.com)*

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Conference Dates:** March 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2018
- Location:** RiverCenter, 136 East 3rd Street, Davenport, Iowa 52801
- Conf. Registration Fee:** \$40 per person. **Attendees must be registered** in order to participate in conference activities such as the banquet, tours, speakers, workshops, factory tours and vendor area.
- Banquet:** \$35 per person – Banquet capacity is approximately 700.
- Room Reservations:** See information under “Hotel Reservations.”
- Registration Deadline:** February 15, 2018 – **Register as soon as possible**. Online or by mail.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

- “Gathering of the Green” attendees are **NOT required** to be members of a tractor club.
- Those in attendance **must be registered** in order to participate in conference activities such as tours, speakers, workshops, factory tours, vendor area, and banquet.

### **CONFERENCE LOCATION:**

**RiverCenter, 136 East 3rd Street, Davenport, Iowa.** The RiverCenter is a large convention facility comprised of two buildings connected via a skywalk and features a large vendor hall, a separate banquet hall, and spacious meeting rooms for workshops, and other “Gathering” activities.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Go to <http://riverctr.com/about/directions-parking> for driving directions to the River Center or go to [www.yahoomaps.com](http://www.yahoomaps.com) or [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com), enter the requested information, and obtain driving directions.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** Call the Hotel Blackhawk, 200 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (888-525-4455), Quality Inn, 6605 Brady Street (563-386-8336), Rhythm City Casino Resort, 7077 Elmore Ave. (563-328-8000) and the The Current Iowa, 215 North Main (563-231-9572) Hotels listed are in Davenport.

When calling for reservations, mention you will be attending the “Gathering of the Green.”

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ASAP**

**BANQUET (optional):**

The “Gathering” ending banquet on Saturday evening is a well-attended event and you are encouraged to complete and mail your “Gathering” registration form as soon as possible. Banquet cost is **\$35\*** per person. Guests must be registered for the conference in order to attend the banquet. Sorry, no refunds for banquet reservations after Feb. 15, 2018. Our after-dinner speaker is Graham Thompson. This forward looking and notable Deere & Company long-range planner will focus on the 100 years anniversary of John Deere tractors, key shifts in the agricultural industry and how Deere’s core values will remain foundational to the company over the coming years. Go to [www.gatheringofthegreen](http://www.gatheringofthegreen) for more information about our speaker. \*No banquet fee for children 12 years of age & younger.

**PARKING INFORMATION IN DOWNTOWN DAVENPORT:**

**FEE PARKING RAMP LOCATIONS:**

- RiverCenter Ramp next door to the RiverCenter on E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Redstone Ramp at corner of Brady St. & River Drive (1½ blocks southwest of RC)
- Harrison St. Ramp at Harrison & 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (2 ½ blocks west of RC)

**NO-COST PARKING**

**ON-STREET TWO-HOUR PARKING:** You may park free for up to two hours in any on-street space located from River Drive to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and from Iowa to Scott Street. The hours of enforcement are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Two-hour limit is not enforced on Saturday.

**FREE PARKING LOTS: FLORIAN KEEN LOT** - You may park free at the Florian Keen lot located on River Drive & Scott Street approximately five blocks southwest of the RiverCenter. ... OR **5<sup>th</sup> & Brady St. Lot** OR **Freight House Lot**, 400 W. River Drive. There is free parking on the south side of River Drive from Perry to Gaines St.

**VENDORS:**

A variety of vendors offering a wide range of products and services will be available during the conference. It is anticipated approximately 70 plus vendors will be in attendance. Should you be interested in being a vendor, please call Dan Misener at 918-325-0849 or E-mail him at [johndeereharvester@gmail.com/](mailto:johndeereharvester@gmail.com/).

**WORKSHOPS:**

Specific information regarding workshop titles, times, and locations will be posted on the “Gathering” website ([www.gatheringofthegreen.com](http://www.gatheringofthegreen.com)), and copies of the information will be available for pick up at the registration check-in table. Workshop sessions will be 1 ½ hours in length, with new topics and some repeats from previous conferences.

## **HATS, PINS & BELT BUCKLES:**

The “Gathering” registration form offers you the opportunity to order and prepay for hats, pins and belt buckles which will be reserved and set aside for your pickup at the conference. Note that each registrant can order more than one of these items. Hats are \$15, pins are \$10 & belt buckles are \$20.

## **WIN A JOHN DEERE CX GATOR AT THE “GATHERING” – Only 1200 tickets will be sold.**

Call Bill Cunningham at 815-943-4321 or E-mail him at [deerebill@live.com](mailto:deerebill@live.com) to purchase tickets (\$10 each) in advance. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the conference. The lucky ticket will be drawn during the banquet on Saturday, March 24.

## **“GATHERING OF THE GREEN” CONFERENCE PROGRAM MAGAZINE:**

Conference planners will again publish a comprehensive program book which will contain a detailed list of activities, articles related to antique John Deere tractors and implements, workshop descriptions, biographical information about workshop leaders and speakers, human interest stories, tidbits of interesting information AND ADVERTISING. If you are interested in purchasing an ad, contact Harris Westerkamp at 563-349-9350 or E-mail him at [hwesterkamp2000@gmail.com/](mailto:hwesterkamp2000@gmail.com/).

## **WEDNESDAY OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION – March 21, 2018:**

Wednesday evening, March 21, at 7:00 p.m., join us to kick off the conference with a welcome and social get-together. Chat with friends, meet new John Deere enthusiasts and enjoy some refreshments. A cash bar will also be available. Please indicate your plan to attend the reception on the registration form.

## **FRIDAY EVENING FUN AUCTION – 7:00 p.m - March 23, 2018:**

Each of the “Gathering” vendors donate an item for this Friday night activity. Join us at the Fun Auction on Friday evening in the Mississippi River Hall to enjoy the banter and humor that goes along with the auctioning of John Deere-related memorabilia.

## **2018 TRIPS and TOURS**

### **IMPORTANT: John Deere Factory Tour Rules:**

- Tour participants must be 13 years of age or older.
- Participants must wear closed toe shoes - no sandals allowed.
- No video recording or photography permitted inside the factories.
- Additional requirement for Seeding tour: Guests must wear long pants or long skirt.
- Due to changes in factory schedules, tours are subject to cancellation.
- There is no charge to tour John Deere factories but the “Gathering” will apply a charge for transportation.

## **Wednesday, March 21:**

### **SINDT MUSEUM & JOHNSON COUNTY HIST. SOCIETY MUSEUM, Keystone & Coralville, IA**

Sindt Tractor Collection: One of the buildings is where Darold Sindt started his career as a John Deere mechanic. From that humble start, Darold moved forward to become a multi-store Deere dealer. While pursuing his career he developed a talent for finding rare and unusual tractors. During your visit, you will have the opportunity to see many of them.

Johnson County Historical Society Museum: Something for everyone here. Cars from the 1900s to the 1950s, a vintage gas station and a model railroad layout. Builders of the model railroad will be available to share their expertise. In addition, a section of the museum is dedicated to the history of Johnson County with many pictures, stories and farm memorabilia. Maximum is 90. The coach bus(es) will depart the RiverCenter at 8:00 a.m. and return at approximately 4:45 p.m. The cost of the tour including transportation and lunch is \$48.

## Wednesday, March 21 – continued

**JOHN DEERE HARVESTER WORKS, East Moline, IL** -- This East Moline factory is the largest, most modern combine manufacturing facility in the world with approximately 90 acres under roof. This tour takes you right to the assembly line where these giant combines are produced. See how it starts as a frame and ends as a harvester. Visit the viewing area to see the beautiful green machines being painted. If you want a tour with lots of action, this is one to take. Maximum is 45. The bus departs the RiverCenter at 12:noon and returns at approximately 2:30 p.m. The cost for transportation is \$7. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

## **BUTTERWORTH CENTER & DEERE-WIMAN HOUSE (DEERE HOMES), Moline, IL**

In 1872 Charles Deere built the Deere-Wiman house for his wife, Mary and daughters. The home sat high on the hill in Moline and overlooked the John Deere Plow Works. It survived a fire in 1899 and served as a home to four generations of Deere descendants. The Butterworth Center was built by Charles Deere in 1892 as a wedding gift for his youngest daughter, Katherine and her husband, William Butterworth. Over the years the home had three major additions, tripling it in size. It has one of the largest residential organs in the Midwest. This tour will give you the opportunity to see the lifestyle of the early wealthy in the Mississippi River Valley. Maximum is 45. The bus departs the RiverCenter at 1:10 p.m. and returns at approximately 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$15.

## Thursday, March 22:

## **KINZE MANUFACTURING/JON KINZEBAW TRACTOR COLLECTION, Williamsburg, IA**

Visit Kinze Manufacturing Inc. to see how they produce farm equipment and the Kinze Innovation Center. The tour will also include an opportunity to see Jon Kinzenbaw's huge personal tractor collection. **YOU WILL BE IMPRESSED!** The Gathering of the Green thanks Jon for allowing us to tour his personal collection. In 1965, 21-year old Jon Kinzenbaw opened a small welding shop. Through hard work and talent for inventing things, Kinzenbaw has created a manufacturing giant. Jon is also famous for his "Kinze Repowers." In the late 1960s and 1970s when American farmers wanted more powerful tractors, Jon filled the need. He installed higher horsepower V8 diesel engines in farm tractors to meet the ever increasing needs of farmers. In addition to manufacturing, John also farmed and collected tractors. Maximum is 80. The coach bus(es) will depart the RiverCenter at 7:40 a.m. and return at approximately 5:45 p.m. The cost of transportation and lunch is \$48.

*Note: Tobacco products of any type are prohibited on both tours.*

## **JOHN DEERE DUBUQUE WORKS & NATIONAL FARM TOY MUSEUM, Dubuque &**

**Dyersville, IA** - In 1947, Deere & Company opened a new factory and produced the famous "Dubuque Tractors," the favorite of many collectors. Today, the company manufactures construction and forestry equipment at the Dubuque Works including crawler dozers, crawler loaders, skid steers, backhoe loaders along with forestry track feller bunchers and knuckle boom loader. This tour will give you an excellent opportunity to view the manufacture of several types of machines. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

Then on to the National Toy Museum in nearby Dyersville. This stop will make all of you say, "I had one of these or I always wanted one as a kid." As you view the toys that somehow survived the children's sandbox and attic cleanings, you may wish you had told mom to save your toys when she asked, "Do you want any of these old toys?" Although focused on farm toys that survived, there are other children's toys and custom-made farm equipment replicas. Maximum is 50. The coach bus will depart the RiverCenter at 8:00 a.m. and return at approximately 4:00 p.m. The cost of transportation and lunch is \$38.

**JOHN DEERE HARVESTER WORKS, East Moline, IL** -- This East Moline factory is the largest, most modern combine manufacturing facility in the world with approximately 90 acres under roof. This tour takes you right to the assembly line where these giant combines are produced. See how it starts as a frame and ends as a harvester. Visit the viewing area to see the beautiful green machines being painted. If you want a tour with lots of action, this is one to take. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

Two JD Harvester Works tours are scheduled for Thursday: 7:30 a.m departure (Maximum 45) and 9:30 a.m. departure (Maximum 45) Important Note: John Deere Harvester (Thurs.) is listed only once on the Registration Form. You will be scheduled for the 7:30 a.m. tour. When sign up reaches the maximum of 45, you will be automatically be scheduled for the 9:30 a.m. tour. Bill Cunningham (815-482-8125), tour director, will notify you of this change. The cost for transportation is \$7.

## Thursday, March 22 - continued

**JOHN DEERE SEEDING WORKS, Moline, IL** – This tour will give you a close look at how the world-famous John Deere planters are built. The planter is a very important step in the process of growing a crop and John Deere strives to be number 1. This is a walking tour, so keep that in mind when you sign up. The bus departs the RiverCenter at 7:40 a.m. and returns at approximately 9:40 a.m. The cost of transportation is \$7. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

**A MUSEUM & SHOPPING TRIP TO GENESEO, Geneseo, IL** - This trip will take to nearby rural Geneseo, IL. The first stop will be to the Geneseo Historical Museum, a home built in the 1850s and used as a hotel. In 1867 it was purchased by two brothers for their two families as a residence. The building has been restored and is home to the historical society, and is filled with furnishings and artifacts dating back to the 1860s.

After your museum visit you will be free to visit shops and restaurants nearby for a couple of hours. At about 1:30 p.m. you will board the bus for a short drive to the C&S Antique Mall for a one and one-half hour visit. Remember, there are large storage spaces under the bus to bring your treasures back with you. Maximum is 50. The coach bus departs the RiverCenter at 9:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 3:30 p.m. The cost of transportation is \$17. Lunch is on your own.

**JOHN DEERE DAVENPORT WORKS, Davenport, IA** – Visit the manufacturing site of the Deere articulated dump trucks, four-wheel drive loaders, motor graders and log skidders and see these huge machines being built. View the logistics of getting parts from other locations at the key time to massive steel parts fabricated into the end product as you tour the plant on carts pulled by John Deere garden tractors. This tour is not normally available to the public but Deere & Company has offered us a limited tour for 2018. Maximum is 20. The bus will depart the RiverCenter at 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 12:noon. The cost of transportation is \$7. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

## Friday, March 23:

**KENNY KASS COLLECTION & JOHN DEERE ENGINE WORKS, Dunkerton & Waterloo, IA**  
The tour of Kenny Kass collection will take you several different ways. From stationary engines to large prairie grass tractors, to rare John Deere two-cylinder tractors, and ending with what may be the largest collection of John Deere Waterloo Boy tractors anywhere. You will be amazed at the number of rare tractors and engines Kenny has collected over the years. Don't miss this opportunity.

The John Deere Engine Works is where Deere manufactures, assembles and tests the world-famous John Deere engines. You will see the amazing speed and perfection of the machining and assembly process. *John Deere tour rules apply.* Maximum is 90. The coach bus(es) depart the RiverCenter at 7:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 5:00 p.m. The cost of transportation and lunch is \$40.

**JOHN DEERE HARVESTER WORKS, East Moline, IL** – This East Moline factory is the largest, most modern combine manufacturing facility in the world with approximately 90 acres under roof. This tour takes you right to the assembly line where these giant combines are produced. See how it starts as a frame and ends as a harvester. Visit the viewing area to see the beautiful green machines being painted. If you want a tour with lots of action, this is one to take. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

Three JD Harvester Works tours are scheduled for Friday: 7:30 a.m. departure (Maximum 45), 9:30 a.m. departure (Maximum 45) and 12:noon departure (Maximum 45). Important Note: John Deere Harvester (Fri.) is listed only once on the Registration Form. You will be scheduled for the 7:30 a.m. tour. When sign up reaches the maximum of 45 for the 7:30 tour, you will automatically be scheduled for the 9:30 tour. When the 9:30 tour reaches maximum, you will be schedule for the 12:noon tour. Bill Cunningham (815-482-8125), tour director, will notify you of any change. The cost for transportation is \$7.

## Friday, March 23 - continued

### **JOHN DEERE TRACTOR WORKS & WATERLOO TRACTOR & ENGINE MUSEUM, Waterloo, IA**

This tour will take you to the factory where Deere makes their 6, 7, 8 & 9 series tractors. You will see the assembly process of these machines. The building of today's John Deere tractor has changed dramatically from the JD Waterloo Boy assembly line. *John Deere tour rules apply.*

The John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum will show you the history of John Deere tractor manufacturing. Located on the site where Deere tractors were made until the 1970s, it holds a spot near and dear to the heart of those who worked there. When you look at the pictures and see the size of the old tractor plant, you will be amazed. Maximum is 50. The coach bus will depart the RiverCenter at 7:40 a.m. and return at approximately 5:15 p.m. The cost of transportation and lunch is \$38.

**THE VILLAGE OF AMANA, Amana, IA** – In the mid-1800s, German settlers purchased a large tract of land, some 26,000 acres in south central Iowa. They established seven villages on this land in a communal-type life style. In the 1930s, the communal life style was not working so the privatization of the colony began. The village of Amana was home to a large textile mill and the home of Amana appliances. Today, Amana has many antique shops, craft shops and restaurants. This trip offers interesting shopping and dining opportunities. Maximum is 50. The coach bus departs the RiverCenter at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 4:30 p.m. The cost of transportation is \$25. Lunch is on your own.

**SHOPPING TRIP TO DEWITT, DeWitt, IA** – Emma Rae's Antiques & Uniques invites Gathering of the Green attendees to spend a day with them. Emma Rae's is an antique mall with over 10,000 square feet and 100 plus vendors. They offer antiques, collectables, artisans, primitives, crafts and more! A variety of the vendor will offer discounts in their booths. Have a cup of coffee and chat in Ellie Jean's Veranda. Free snacks and drinks provided for the day. Other shops and eateries within the three-block area of downtown DeWitt will also be offering discounts. Maximum is 45.

The bus departs depart the RiverCenter at 9:00 a.m. and returns at approximately 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$16. Lunch is on your own.

## Saturday, March 24:

**CINNAMON RIDGE FARM, Donahue, IA** – This unique farm is operated by John and Joan Maxwell and family. To say the Maxwell's are progressive farmers is an understatement as they have produced 300 per acre corn yields, a completely automated milking operation for 250 Jersey cows, and a cattle and hog feeding operation. You will find this tour educational and enjoyable as the Maxwell's are delightful hosts. Maximum is 45. The bus departs the RiverCenter at 8:20 a.m. and returns at approximately 11:15 a.m. Cost is \$20.

**IOWA 80 TRUCK MUSEUM, Walcott, IA** – This museum is a tribute to trucking in America. Although not a tractor collection, trucking was and is a large part of the success of farming. From seed, feed and fuel delivery to the farm, to milk, livestock and grain transport, trucks play an important part in every farming operation. See how the trucking industry has progressed, just as farming has progressed from the Waterloo Boy. Maximum is 45. The bus departs the RiverCenter at 9:00 a.m. and returns at approximately 12:noon. Cost of transportation and a museum donation is \$12.

**Big River Resources (Ethanol), West Burlington, IA** – This tour will take you to an ethanol plant in West Burlington, IA which produces more than 100 million gallons of ethanol each year. See how the forty million bushels of corn is turned into ethanol and how tons of byproduct are handled. Learn and view the process of making ethanol from corn. Maximum is 50. The coach bus departs the RiverCenter at 8:15 a.m. and returns at approximately 2:45 p.m. The cost of transportation and lunch is \$37.

**Directions for Completing Registration Form on next page.**

## COMPLETING THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM - Directions

**PRIMARY REGISTRANT:** This person will complete the registration form and submit a single check covering the total costs for all activities selected by the registrants listed on the form. All other persons listed on the form will be cross-referenced under the name of the primary registrant. A single registration packet, to be picked up at the Check-In Desk at the conference, will be filed under the primary registrant's name and will contain name badges and activity verification information for all persons listed on the registration form.

### Instructions for the Primary Registrant:

1. Provide all requested information (name, address, etc.) about yourself.
2. Provide all requested information for others you are registering.
3. Registrants do not have to be members of a tractor clubs to attend the Gathering.
4. If any registrants are members of a club, provide the full club name for inclusion on the name badges.
5. Use numbers in the boxes below the respective activities to indicate the quantity of the item you're requesting, i.e. if you want two pins, enter a "2."
6. Total each column at the bottom of the form and determine the grand total.
7. Enclose a check payable to Gathering of the Green, along with the registration form and mail ***AS SOON AS POSSIBLE*** to:

Gathering of the Green Conference  
c/o Bill Cunningham  
P.O. Box 292  
Harvard, IL 60033

8. Respond to the question in the box (lower left) of the registration form regarding attendance at the opening night reception.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2018**

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Questions? Call or text Gathering Information at 563-845-3298

**PLEASE DUPLICATE THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS WHO MAY NEED A FORM OR MAY NOT KNOW OF THE "Gathering."**

**IMPORTANT OPTION: YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
**[WWW.GATHERINGOFTHEGREEN.COM](http://WWW.GATHERINGOFTHEGREEN.COM)**

***Please tell your friends and colleagues about the "Gathering!" Help us spread the word!***